In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer architecture for managing resources for replication of data stored in a data storage environment including at least two data storage systems, and wherein said data is replicated from one of the at least two data storage systems to at least one other data storage system of the at least two data storage systems, the architecture comprising:

a data replication management (DRM) server;

one or more data replication management software agents in communication with at least one of the two data storage systems and the data replication management server, the DRM software agents being configured for performing data replication operations in response to commands from the data replication management server;

said replicated data being replicated on a volume basis;

wherein server commands to each of the DRM software agents are sent over a network in accordance with an Internet Protocol; and wherein at least one of the DRM software agents is configured to perform replication in accordance with one or more replication policies that use groups of mirrored logical volumes that store data associated with the replication, the one or more replication policies comprising a control policy, the control policy being assignable to a first grouping level and the same control policy also being assignable to a second grouping level, the DRM server not starting if the control policy is not associated at a highest grouping level.

2.   (Currently Amended) The computer architecture of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more ~~clients~~ DRM software agents includes a graphical user interface.

3.   (Currently Amended) The architecture of claim 1, wherein a switch is disposed in a communication path between the one or more DRM software agents and the at least two data storage systems.

4.   (Currently Amended) The architecture of claim 3, wherein the switch is used to determine the direction of data flow from one data storage system to one other data storage system of the at least two data storage systems for controlling which data storage system functions as a target for data replication and which functions as a source for data replication, wherein the replication is controlled by the DRM server.

5.   (Currently Amended) The architecture of Claim 4, wherein the DRM server stores configuration information for replication, security and other configuration settings for the one or more DRM software agents ~~and the one or more clients~~ in the data storage environment.

6.   (Currently Amended) The architecture of Claim 5, wherein communication between the server and the one or more ~~clients~~ agents is encrypted for security purposes.

7. (Currently Amended) The architecture of Claim 6, wherein communication between the server and the one or more ~~clients~~ <u>agents</u> is encrypted with at least 128 bit keys.

8. (Currently Amended) The architecture of Claim 7, wherein communication between the server and the one or more ~~clients~~ <u>DRM software agents</u> is encrypted with at least 256 bit keys.

9. (Currently Amended) The architecture of Claim 6, wherein a secure socket layer (SSL) protocol is used for communication between the <u>DRM</u> server and the one or more ~~clients~~ <u>DRM software agents</u>.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for managing resources for replication of data stored in a data storage environment including at least two data storage systems, and wherein said data is replicated under control of a server from one of the at least two data storage systems to at least one other data storage system of the at least two data storage systems, the method comprising:

one or more data replication management software agents in communication with at least one of the two data storage systems and the server, the agents being configured for performing data replication operations in response to commands from the server; said replicated data being replicated on a volume basis; wherein server commands to each of the software agents are sent over a network in accordance with an Internet Protocol; and wherein at least one of the agents is configured to perform replication in accordance with one or more replication policies that use groups of mirrored logical volumes that store data associated with the replication, the one or more replication policies comprising a control policy, the control policy being assignable to a

first grouping level and the same control policy also being assignable to a second grouping level, the server not starting if the control policy is not associated at a highest grouping level.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein the data storage environment includes one or more ~~clients~~ DRM software agents that enable communication of a user with the DRM server through a graphical user interface, and wherein the one or more ~~clients~~ DRM software agents may include a software application that uses said data that is replicated by commands from the DRM server to the DRM software agent.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein a switch is disposed in a communication path between the one or more DRM software agents and the at least two data storage systems.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the switch is used to determine the direction of data flow from one data storage system to one other data storage system of the at least two data storage systems for controlling which data storage system functions as a target for data replication and which functions as a source for data replication, wherein the replication is controlled by the DRM server.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the DRM server stores configuration information for replication, security and other configuration settings for the one or more DRM software agents ~~and the one or more clients~~ in the data storage environment.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein communication between the DRM server and the one or more ~~clients~~ DRM software agents is encrypted for security purposes.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein communication between the DRM server and the one or more ~~clients~~ DRM software agents is encrypted with at least 128 bit keys.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein communication between the DRM server and the one or more ~~clients~~ DRM software agents is encrypted with at least 256 bit keys.

18.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing resources for replication of data stored in a data storage environment including at least two data storage systems, and wherein said data is replicated from one of the at least two data storage systems to at least one other data storage system of the at least two data storage systems, the system comprising:

a data replication management server;

one or more data replication management software agents in communication with at least one of the two data storage systems and the data replication management server, the agents being configured with a computer-executable program for performing data replication operations in response to commands from the data replication management server; said replicated data being

replicated on a volume basis; wherein server commands to each of the software agents are sent over a network in accordance with an Internet Protocol; and wherein at least one of the agents is configured to perform replication in accordance with one or more replication policies that use groups of mirrored logical volumes that store data associated with the replication, the one or more replication policies comprising a control policy, the control policy being assignable to a first grouping level and the same control policy also being assignable to a second grouping level, the data replication management server not starting if the control policy is not associated at a highest grouping level.